

## ***How Rising Natural Gas Prices Will Affect New York Home Heating Costs This Winter***

There are approximately 1.75 million households in Upstate New York that use natural gas for home heating needs, almost one million more households than those that use home heating oil. According numbers released by the Department of Energy today, rising natural gas prices mean heating bills will rise by 30% this winter for an average total of \$180 more per household than last winter. This translates into increased heating costs for Upstate households of approximately \$315 million.

While colder than normal winter temperatures contributed to the higher prices higher, a potential war in Iraq has no impact on natural gas prices because natural gas comes from domestic sources or Canada and Mexico. As a result, last week's 49 % price spike in natural gas appears suspicious. The report below outlines the number of natural gas households in each county and shows how the expected increase in heating costs will affect natural gas users on a county-by-county basis.

***The Capital Region:*** *There are 212,123 natural gas users in the Capital Region. A 30% increase in winter heating bills means residents will pay almost \$38.2 million more to heat their homes with natural gas this winter.*

<b>County</b>	<b>Natural Gas Users</b>	<b>Total Additional Winter Expenditure</b>
Albany	80, 854	\$14,553,720
Rensselaer	25,701	\$4,626,180
Schenectady	43, 228	\$7,781,040
Saratoga	39, 998	\$7,199,640
Fulton	8, 824	\$1,588,320
Montgomery	9, 181	\$1,652,580
Schoharie	154	\$27,720
Washington	4,183	\$752,940
<b>Capital Region</b>	<b>212,123</b>	<b>\$38,182,140</b>

***Central New York:*** *There are 228,476 natural gas users in Central New York. A 30% increase in*

*winter heating bills means residents will pay over \$41.1 million more to heat their homes with natural gas this winter.*

<b>County</b>	<b>Natural Gas Users</b>	<b>Total Additional Winter Expenditure</b>
Oneida	52, 374	\$9,427,320
Oswego	19,374	\$3,487,320
Madison	10,103	\$1,818,540
Cortland	9,224	\$1,660,320
Onondaga	137,401	\$24,732,180
<b>Central New York</b>	<b>228,476</b>	<b>\$41,125,680</b>

***The Finger Lakes:** There are 325,403 natural gas users in the Finger Lakes. A 30% increase in winter heating bills means residents will pay almost \$58.6 million more to heat their homes with natural gas this winter.*

<b>County</b>	<b>Natural Gas Users</b>	<b>Total Additional Winter Expenditure</b>
Cayuga	15,263	\$2,747,340
Seneca	5,676	\$1,021,680
Yates	2,668	\$480,240
Ontario	21,897	\$3,941,460
Wayne	18,156	\$3,268,080
Monroe	230,558	\$41,500,440
Livingston	10,400	\$1,872,000
Schuyler	1,571	\$282,780
Tompkins	19,214	\$3,458,520
<b>Finger Lakes</b>	<b>325,403</b>	<b>\$58,572,540</b>

***The Hudson Valley:** There are 311,191 natural gas users in the Hudson Valley. A 30% increase in winter heating bills means residents will pay over \$56 million more to heat their homes with natural*

gas this winter.

County	Natural Gas Users	Total Additional Winter Expenditure
Westchester	140,518	\$25,293,240
Rockland	82,333	\$14,819,940
Putnam	1,062	\$191,160
Dutchess	21,259	\$3,826,620
Ulster	10,510	\$1,891,800
Sullivan	381	\$68,580
Orange	51,420	\$9,255,600
Greene	933	\$167,940
Columbia	2,775	\$499,500
<b>Hudson Valley</b>	<b>311,191</b>	<b>\$56,014,380</b>

***The North Country:*** There are 51,584 natural gas users in the North Country. A 30% increase in winter heating bills means residents will pay almost \$9.3 million more to heat their homes with natural gas this winter.

County	Natural Gas Users	Total Additional Winter Expenditure
Warren	10,343	\$1,861,740
Essex	63	\$11,340
Clinton	592	\$106,560
Franklin	129	\$23,220
Hamilton	2	\$360
St Lawrence	12,693	\$2,284,740
Herkimer	11,024	\$1,984,320

Lewis	267	\$48,060
Jefferson	16,471	\$2,964,780
<b>North Country</b>	<b>51,584</b>	<b>\$9,285,120</b>

***The Southern Tier:*** There are 125,821 natural gas users in the Southern Tier. A 30% increase in winter heating bills means residents will pay almost \$22.7 million more to heat their homes with natural gas this winter.

<b>County</b>	<b>Natural Gas Users</b>	<b>Total Additional Winter Expenditure</b>
Delaware	1,905	\$342,900
Otsego	3,393	\$610,740
Chenango	3,041	\$547,380
Broome	53,678	\$9,662,040
Tioga	5,519	\$993,420
Chemung	26,366	\$4,745,880
Steuben	21,489	\$3,868,020
Allegany	10,430	\$1,877,400
<b>Southern Tier</b>	<b>125,821</b>	<b>\$22,647,780</b>

***Western New York:*** There are 494,716 natural gas users in Western New York. A 30% increase in winter heating bills means residents will pay almost \$89.1 million more to heat their homes with natural gas this winter.

<b>County</b>	<b>Natural Gas Users</b>	<b>Total Additional Winter Expenditure</b>
Orleans	6,345	\$1,142,100
Genesee	13,098	\$2,357,640
Wyoming	7,329	\$1,319,220

Erie	343,172	\$61,770,960
Niagara	67,198	\$12,095,640
Cattaraugus	17,929	\$3,227,220
Chautauqua	39,645	\$7,136,100
<b>Western New York</b>	<b>494,716</b>	<b>\$89,048,880</b>